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**Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

## Letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the ministerial declaration from the ministerial conference of the seventh World Water Forum, held in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea from 12 to 17 April 2015 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19 (a).

(*Signed*) **Oh** Joon
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Seventh World Water Forum ministerial process

## Ministerial declaration, 13 April 2015

**Gyeongju, Republic of Korea**

We, the ministers and heads of delegations assembled in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, on 13 April 2015 on the occasion of the ministerial conference of the seventh World Water Forum, "Water for Our Future",

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 64/292, entitled "the human right to water and sanitation", 68/157, entitled "the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation", 58/217, entitled "International Decade for Action, Water for Life, 2005-2015" and 65/154, entitled "International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013", as well as Human Rights Council resolution 27/7, entitled "the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation",

Reaffirming the commitments made in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

Recognizing the key water-related challenges the world is facing as well as the urgent need to address them in a sustainable manner,

Welcoming the proposed water-related sustainable development goals by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing the significant contributions previous World Water Forums and the Budapest Water Summit have made in committing to address water-related challenges and reaffirming the ministerial declaration of the sixth World Water Forum, entitled "Time for Solutions", held in Marseille, France, in 2012,

Also recognizing that sustainable management of water resources is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders,

Acknowledging that water resources are vital for sustainable development for all countries in the world, in particular for developing countries, including the least developed countries,

Stressing the need to promote good governance at all levels, including the basin level, based on, water planning, public participation and the sound management of physical infrastructure and natural systems as a means to effectively tackle water security-related challenges,

Recognizing the need to move from "solutions" identified during the previous World Water Forums for resolving water-related challenges to "implementation",

Taking into consideration, as appropriate, the Daegu-Gyeongbuk recommendations that have been submitted to the ministers and welcoming the many contributions and efforts from the thematic, regional and science and technology processes,

Declare our political will to translate our commitments made in this declaration into national policies, plans and actions, and to intensify our joint efforts to advance water-related cooperation at a global scale, as follows:

1. We reaffirm that water is at the core of sustainable development and support the inclusion of one dedicated water goal and water-related target in the post-2015 development agenda. We note that integrated water resources management and its balanced relationship with food and energy is important to effectively coping with increasing food and energy requirements towards sustainable development.

2. We reaffirm our commitment to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and to ensuring progressive access to water and sanitation for all.

3. We stress that water is one of the major issues in tackling climate change. In this regard, we are committed to working together to ensure a successful outcome at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in full recognition of the importance of water-related issues in climate change.

4. We recognize the leading role that riparian countries have on advancing cooperation on transboundary waters. We recognize that transboundary water cooperation, based on win-win solutions, can contribute to sustainable development and sound management of the transboundary waters between riparian countries and the peace and stability of nations. We are determined to further build upon the commitments and recommendations with regard to transboundary water cooperation made in the previous World Water Forums and the seventh World Water Forum. We note the key role of the United Nations in promoting international water cooperation at the global level. Several of the principles of the relevant international conventions on water can be useful in this regard.

5. Taking note of the outcome of the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, we acknowledge the pressing need to take preventive action and enhance resilience and preparedness with regard to water-related disasters at the national, regional and international levels. Developing systematic and effective response mechanisms is crucial to dealing with the increased risks and uncertainties of water-related disasters. We emphasize that integrated water resources management supported by appropriate land management at the basin level is crucial to sustainable water management and planning. This includes enhancing prevention, resilience and preparedness with regard to water-related disasters, based on sound management of natural systems and adequate water infrastructure.

6. We underscore the importance of international cooperation and partnership between developed and developing countries and among international aid agencies, financial institutions and related intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders. We highlight the partnership between public and private sectors, as appropriate, in tackling water-related global challenges, including climate-related institutions such as the Global Green Growth Institute, the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

7. We underline the critical role of science and technology in paving the way from "solutions" for resolving water-related challenges towards "implementation" by applying innovative and applicable technologies to policies as

well as building sound and effective action plans linking science, technologies, policies and practices. We share a common understanding of the need to establish sound science-based public policies and regulations supported by appropriate institutional mechanisms. We stress, in particular, the importance of convergence of information and communications technologies on smart water management and planning. We call upon nations to promote knowledge-sharing and the development and deployment of scientific knowledge and innovative technologies to facilitate financing, investment, education, training and capacity-building, in particular for developing countries, and to develop and diffuse concrete business models with a view to promoting cooperation among water-related stakeholders. In this regard, we welcome the inauguration of the science and technology process in the World Water Forum and resolve to build on its progress and further strengthen participation in it.

We support the results of the seventh World Water Forum and look forward to the implementation road map and its respective monitoring system, which could be considered as a model for establishing implementation and monitoring guidelines for water-related goals in the post-2015 development agenda. We further welcome the outcomes of the process of the seventh World Water Forum, "Daegu-Gyeongbuk water action for sustainable cities and regions", and its network of local and regional authorities, as well as the ongoing process in the World Water Forums with regard to the establishment of the water legislation help desk, which aims to serve as a support tool for networks of parliamentarians.

We thank the Government and the people of the Republic of Korea, the metropolitan city of Daegu, the province of Gyeongsangbuk-do and the World Water Council for their support in organizing the ministerial conference of the seventh World Water Forum and recommend that the Government of the Republic of Korea submit this declaration to the States Members of the United Nations and its appropriate bodies for their consideration.